

# **FAMILIES and LEARNING**

**A conference that focuses  
on Family Literacy and  
Parent Involvement**

**March 3–4–5, 2003**

**WestCoast Colonial Hotel  
2301 Colonial Drive  
Helena, Montana**

## **Registration Brochure**

**This conference is co-sponsored by:**

**Montana Family Literacy Consortium,  
Office of Public Instruction Even Start,  
Montana Parent Information Resource Network,  
Montana Head Start State Collaboration Project,  
and the Department of Education at MSU-Bozeman**

# FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES: CONNECTING THE VOICES

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Monday, March 3

- 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. – On-site registration
- 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Plenary Session  
for all conference attendees  
*A Framework for Understanding Poverty*  
Lunch with awards
- 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. – Opening Session  
Entertainment & Delicious Desserts  
Storyteller Jim Garry

### Tuesday, March 4

- 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. – On-site registration
- 9 a.m. – Noon – Round One Workshops
- Noon – 1:30 p.m. – Lunch and Break
- 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. – Round Two Workshops

### Wednesday, March 5

- 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. – On-site registration
- 8 – 9:30 a.m. – Round Three Workshops
- 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Brunch with Speaker, Naomi Griffith ~ *Renewing Our Commitment: Seeing the Work through New Eyes*  
Closing



### STORYTELLER JIM GARRY

Jim Garry has worked as a cowboy, naturalist, horse wrangler, media consultant, wilderness guide, teacher, camp cook, political consultant, river-runner, mule packer, folklore collector, storyteller, poet, and a few other things. Raised in Taylor, Texas, he now lives all over the West, but home base is Cody, Wyoming.

*The texture of the West is woven by the people who live there, as they experience each other and the land and muse over what that experience means. The way they muse over that experience is to tell stories to each other. I'm grateful to Jim Garry for caring about the stories he has heard, musing over them and passing them along. ~ Alan Jabbour, Director, American Folklore Center, Library of Congress.*

## REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE

ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. The cost is \$50.00 per participant for Monday through Wednesday (including three meals and refreshments).

To register, complete the enclosed registration form and send with a check (payable to MSU) to the address on the form. To adequately arrange for meals, registrations must be received by **February 21, 2003**.

## WORKSHOP SESSIONS

### Plenary Session (Monday)

#### A Framework for Understanding Poverty

Built around Dr. Ruby K. Payne's groundbreaking book, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, this workshop is designed for anyone who works with students or adults from poverty. This seminar examines how economic class differences, in an educational setting, often makes both teaching and learning challenging. Discussed at length are the social cues or "hidden rules" that govern how we think and interact in society—and the significance of those in an educational setting.

**Presenter:** Freta E. Parkes from Palestine, Texas is a professional educator and school board member. During her 33 years in education, she worked in many capacities serving students of poverty, using new and innovative methods. She taught in both regular and special education classrooms, worked as an educational diagnostician and was a Title I school principal. Freta has served as a consultant for aha! Process, Inc, since 1997, delivering numerous workshops to appreciative audiences.

### Round One Workshops (Tuesday)

#### Cognitive Coaching (full day workshop: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

Cognitive Coaching is a peer coaching model that develops a set of strategies which shape an individual's thinking and the way in which they interact with others. Cognitive Coaching invites a person to draw upon internal resources and develop capacities that support thinking through effective planning, reflection, and problem solving. This one day overview of Cognitive Coaching will develop understandings of the unique attributes and applications of Cognitive Coaching. Information regarding future dates and locations of full coaching training will also be provided.

#### Limit: 40

**Presenter:** Elaine Trueblood Meeks is a certified trainer for the Center for Cognitive Coaching and provides training to school districts and universities throughout the Northwest. She is also the principal of Cherry Valley

Elementary School in Polson, MT, which was named Montana's Title 1 Distinguished School in 2002. Over the last 30 years, Elaine has worked as a regular and special education teacher, special education director, and elementary administrator. She also works as an independent educational consultant, providing staff development to administrators and teachers around the nation. Elaine is a 1998 recipient of the Milken National Educator Award.

### **9:00 a.m. – Noon**

#### **Putting A Framework for Poverty to Work for Students and Parents**

The workshop will involve pre-school through ABE teachers and administrators in activities that will help build trust, planning skills and learning strategies with their clientele. Activities and handouts are based on Ruby Payne Publications and workshops.

**Presenters:** Ann Bartell, retired Title I and Literacy program supervisor and Carol Blades, Billings Public Schools Federal Programs Director. Both presenters have been trained as Ruby Payne workshop trainers.

#### **To Increase Authentic Parent Participation in Their Children's Education: First, Fuel the System**

Stress has been defined as "resource shortage." The more shortage, the more stress. This workshop addresses the needs of stressed parents that must be met in order for them to intrinsically seek involvement in their children's education process. Participants examine both the internal and external types of resources available to parents, explore an appreciative inquiry process to tap those resources, and practice vocabulary, questions, and strategies for implementation when working with parents.

**Presenter:** Gloria DeGaetano, Founder and Director of The Parent Coaching Institute in Bellevue WA, is a nationally acclaimed educator, consultant, author, and parent coach, committed to giving her clients research-based information and practical strategies. She has over 25 years experience working with children, teachers, and parents as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, district administrator, university instructor, and national consultant. She teaches graduate courses for Seattle Pacific University, has authored several books and is a leading expert in child development, media literacy, and brain research.

#### **The Right Question Project: Developing Parent Leadership**

This effective educational strategy teaches people the skill of formulating their own questions and helps them focus on key decisions that affect them. Learn how to develop leadership through self-advocacy, a view of the larger system, key decisions and effecting change.

**Presenters:** Luz Santana and Tami Adams

Luz Santana is the co-founder and Director of the Right Question Project, Inc. in Cambridge MA. Luz has modeled

in her own life—raising her family on welfare, going back to school and then sharing her new skills with others—much of what we aim to accomplish through the work of

The Right Question Project. She has extensive experience designing and implementing applications of the RQP educational strategy in their work in low-income communities. She has also been a Community Fellow at M.I.T, parent advocate in Lawrence, MA, the Merrimack Valley Woman of the Year and a widely respected developer of innovative training programs. In 1996, she received a Master's Degree from the Springfield College School of Human Services and is on the adjunct faculty at the Springfield College-Boston Campus.

Tami Adams is a Family Advocate with Family BASICS in Missoula, MT.

**Limit: 60**

#### **Using Research-Based Comprehension Strategies through the Balanced Literacy Component *Shared Reading***

Would you like to know how to better develop your students' reading comprehension through a shared reading experience? We will demonstrate how to develop the metacognitive process through activating background knowledge, asking questions, inferring, determining importance in text, making mental images, synthesizing, and monitoring comprehension strategies. See how these strategies work with new readers of all ages.

**Presenters:** Wendy Melvin, Reading Consultant and Sharon Jones, Teacher/Rigby and Steck-Vaughn Representative

### **Round Two Workshops (Tuesday)**

#### **1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

#### **Continuation of Cognitive Coaching workshop**

##### **Helping Parents Become Appreciative Advocates for Their Children**

What is Appreciative Advocacy? How does it differ from the usual ways we think of child advocacy? This workshop presents an effective tool for building parental empowerment and clear communication between schools and families. The principles and criteria for appreciative advocacy are discussed within the context of real-life examples. Suggestions for using the model with various school-related issues often encountered by parents lead participants to understanding how, they too, can act as appreciative advocates for both children and parents.

**Presenter:** Gloria DeGaetano, Founder and Director, The Parent Coaching Institute, Bellevue WA

#### **Using Research-Based Comprehension Strategies through the Balanced Literacy Component *Shared Reading***

Repeat of morning session.

**Presenters:** Wendy Melvin, Reading Consultant and Sharon Jones, Teacher/Rigby and Steck-Vaughn Representative

### **The Right Question Project: Developing Parent Leadership**

Repeat of morning session.

**Presenters:** Luz Santana, Director, Right Question Project and Tami Adams, Family Advocate, Family BASICS

**Limit:** 60

### **Grant Writing for Beginners**

if you have never written a grant proposal or have very little experience in this area, this session is for you. Learn the basic terminology, how to turn your ideas into a proposal, the components of a proposal, how proposals are evaluated, and where you can look for information on potential funding sources.

**Presenter:** Gloria A. Gregg, Department of Education, MSU-Bozeman

## **Round Three Workshops (Wednesday)**

### **The Heart of Home-Based Services: Building on the Flavor and Uniqueness of Each Family**

This workshop is a celebration of families and the privileged role of the home visitor. We'll examine the characteristics that we all recognize as basic to healthy family functioning, focus on what the home visitor can do practically to promote these characteristics and rejoice in the possibilities.

**Presenter:** Naomi Haynes Griffith is a true Southerner, growing up in Alabama and Mississippi. She worked in the North Carolina and Alabama child welfare systems, was Executive Director of a pioneer child abuse prevention agency she helped to found and served on the State Board of the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Since 1988, she has become a national speaker and consultant on child welfare issues. Naomi weaves her common sense pragmatism and 30 years experience working with children and families into inspirational and heart-warming stories that motivate her audiences both personally and professionally.

### **Introduction to Brain Gym®**

Come and discover the joy of movement and how to incorporate simple Brain Gym® activities in your day to enhance whole brain learning. Explore how stress switches off parts of the brain and see how simple Brain Gym® activities can reduce stress and improve learning and behavior.

**Presenter:** Tami Adams, Family Advocate, Family BASICS

**Limit:** 30

### **Using Your TV as a Literacy Tool**

If you think television is hindering a child's reading progress, you are probably right! But, if used correctly, television can be a powerful tool in your reading arsenal. Come let MontanaPBS show you how to harness the power of this medium for your students.

**Presenter:** Chris Seifert, Director of Outreach, MontanaPBS

### **Research to Practice**

Family literacy provides a model that can help students of all ages reach proficiency through multi-dimensional learning opportunities. In this session, we will examine together several best practices and turn research into strategies and activities.

**Presenter:** Chloe Fessler, Montana Family Literacy Initiative Project Director

### **WAKE UP! the possibilities**

#### **Family Resource Centers - Not your ordinary Parent Involvement**

Montana Parent Information Resource Center Network (MPIRC) strengthens and supports Family Resource Centers (FRCs) statewide. This workshop will bring you energizing information, ideas and methods on parent involvement that have been gathered from the "front line" in Montana FRCs. Join your colleagues, build your professional support network and get excited about the possibilities within Family Resource Centers.

**Presenters:** Pam Gannon, MPIRC FRC Technical Assistant; Jeanne Moon, FRC coordinator, Family BASICS (MPIRC Lead Program); Laura Pickett, FRC Technical Assistant, Family BASICS (MPIRC Lead Program)

**Teacher recertification hours and units for childcare/early childhood professional development will be available.**

## **Lodging**

A block of rooms has been reserved at the WestCoast Colonial Hotel in Helena for conference participants. The rates are \$69.00 plus tax for a single and \$75.00 plus tax for a double. Tell them you are with the MSU Family Literacy Conference. The toll free number to call is 800-325-4000. You must call by **February 17** to get these rates.

Other motels in the area include: Comfort Inn (443-1000), Country Inn & Suites (443-2300), Days Inn (442-3280), Fairfield Inn (449-9944), Hampton Inn (443-5800), Holiday Inn Express (449-4000) and Super 8 (443-2450).



**FAMILIES AND LEARNING CONFERENCE**  
***FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES: CONNECTING THE VOICES***  
**MARCH 3 - 5, 2003, HELENA, MONTANA**

Registration Form (one for each participant)

<b>Please Print</b>
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INDICATE FIRST CHOICE OF WORKSHOPS: ☐**

**MONDAY ALL DAY**

- ☐ Plenary Session, A Framework for Understanding Poverty

**TUESDAY ALL DAY**

- ☐ Cognitive Coaching (Limit: 40)

**TUESDAY MORNING**

- ☐ Putting a Framework for Poverty to Work  
☐ To Increase Authentic Parent Participation  
☐ The Right Question Project (Limit: 60)  
☐ Using Research-Based Comprehension Strategies

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON**

- ☐ Helping Parents Become Appreciative Advocates  
☐ Using Research-Based Comprehension Strategies  
☐ The Right Question Project (Limit: 60)  
☐ Grant Writing for Beginners

**WEDNESDAY MORNING**

- ☐ The Heart of Home-Based Services  
☐ Introduction to Brain Gym® (Limit: 30)  
☐ Using Your TV as a Literacy Tool  
☐ Research to Practice  
☐ WAKE UP! the possibilities

Return completed form with check (payable to MSU)  
for \$50 registration fee to:  
Families & Learning Conference, 213 Reid, MSU,  
Bozeman, MT 59717

**THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS  
FEBRUARY 21, 2003**